

sometime ago that I cannot, over 25 years of working with this man, think of a single former friend of Paul's, not a single one, who ever left his side in anger, because Paul was such a decent and gentle man. This is a fitting tribute to that decent and gentle man.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 5 minutes to my distinguished colleague and good friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I hesitate to do this, and I will probably be the only member in this body to do so, but I oppose this resolution.

I am sure that Paul Coverdell was a far more accomplished politician than I will ever be and that many in this body will ever be; but I do not consider him to be a great man, I do not consider many people in our generation to be great, and certainly not this generation of political leaders. And that is what I would like to speak to today.

I think we are a self-indulgent generation that operates on the assumption that the heroes in our experience are the only ones that matter. We build buildings on every piece of prime open space and name buildings after people in our experience rather than leave their legacy to the test of time. We put our own spin on history.

We have been blessed with the longest period of sustained peace and prosperity that any generation has ever experienced that they did not have to struggle for, and yet we reward ourselves by spending our surplus and giving ourselves deep tax cuts all at the expense of our children and grandchildren. We operate under the assumption that subsequent generations will never have heroes as great as those in our experience, and that is self-indulgence and self-deception.

Specifically to the Peace Corps Building, why not name it after Mrs. Ruppe, who headed the Peace Corps for 8 years under the Reagan administration, who for 2 years did not take a salary because she did not feel she understood the Peace Corps well enough. There are many people who deserve it, for example Sargent Shriver, who started it. But most importantly, all those Peace Corps volunteers who struggled and sacrificed and who made a real difference in the lives of the poor and oppressed around the world, what they want is for the building to continue to be named the Peace Corps Building after the organization, the mission and the volunteers, and that is as it should be.

And thus, I will oppose this resolution.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Illinois, the chairman of the Committee on International Relations, for bringing this bill to the floor today, and I do think that it is certainly fitting.

I also want to thank my colleagues from the Georgia delegation for their

hard work. Our committee shared some of this jurisdiction early on, and in an effort to move this bill today, I yielded to the gentleman from Illinois to bring this bill up. Why? Because Paul Coverdell was our friend. Not only was he a director of the Peace Corps under President George Bush's reign in the late 1980s and early 1990s, he was a respected member of the Georgia legislature.

Paul was an insurance agency owner. He understood the private sector. I know Paul because he and I worked closely during my years in the Republican leadership here in the House, with Paul representing the Republican leadership in the Senate. We worked closely in a meeting that occurred every single week for about 4 years. I can tell my colleagues that Paul Coverdell was a man of great integrity, someone who worked very hard on behalf of his constituents and on behalf of his Members of the Senate. Not only did he work with his Republican Members but with his Democrat Members as well.

And when I look back through the 10 years I spent in this Congress, I can tell my colleagues that there are but few people who rise to the stature of former Senator Paul Coverdell. Why? Not just because he worked there, not just because he worked with all his colleagues on both sides of the aisle, but because Paul Coverdell was a man of great integrity who believed strongly in the words of freedom. He understood the private sector, understood the need to allow the genius of the private sector and individuals to be all that they can be and stood up proudly for that each and every day.

We miss Paul Coverdell here in the halls of Congress. I rise today to support this resolution to honor him as a man that we all can look up to, not only today but for generations to come.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 5 minutes to my good friend and distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to oppose S. 360, the bill sent to us from the other body, to place the name of the late Senator Paul Coverdell on the Peace Corps headquarters. While I did not know Senator Coverdell, my opposition to this bill is not intended to show any disrespect upon a man that served our Nation with honor and dignity and proud public service.

Senator Coverdell, as the Peace Corps' 11th director, and as a United States Senator from Georgia, was an advocate for the agency, for volunteers, for the value returned volunteers contribute to our communities here at home. Mr. Speaker, the National Peace Corps Association, which advocates on behalf of the agency and returned volunteers, opposes placing the name of Senator Coverdell on the Peace Corps headquarters.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the following letter from the National Peace Corps Association.

NATIONAL PEACE
CORPS ASSOCIATION,

Washington, DC, July 17, 2001.

Hon. BETTY MCCOLLUM,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR REP. MCCOLLUM: We have just learned that you plan to address the House regarding House bill S-360, which includes a provision to rename the Peace Corps Headquarters, wherever sited, after the late Senator Paul Coverdell. The National Peace Corps Association, the alumni organization of former Volunteers and staff of the Peace Corps with more than 13,000 members, opposes that section of the bill. We believe, based on the reactions of former Volunteers around the country, that this position reflects the view of a clear majority of former Peace Corps Volunteers.

We have great respect for the late Senator Coverdell and the leadership that he provided as Peace Corps Director. We note especially his establishment of the World Wise Schools Program (now named after him), which brings the Peace Corps experience directly into classrooms here in the United States.

However, it is the view of the National Peace Corps Association that, as the heart of the Peace Corps is the Volunteers themselves, the headquarters should not be named after any single director, no matter how distinguished.

We have no objection to the other parts of the bill.

Thank you.

DANE F. SMITH,
President.

Mr. Speaker, returned volunteers from my Minnesota district have contacted me, and they do not want the Peace Corps headquarters named for any individual. They oppose this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I am also submitting for the RECORD at this point the following constituent letters from the returned Peace Corps volunteers.

ST. PAUL, MN,
March 2, 2001.

I am a returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Zaire 1973-75) and wish to express my very strong opposition to the bill which was passed by the Senate and referred to the House, S. 360. RFH. This bill would name the new Peace Corps building in Washington after Senator Paul Coverdell. Senator Coverdell was a brief and undistinguished director of the Peace Corps. If the building is to be named, it should be for people who made a major contribution: President Kennedy set it up, Hubert Humphrey supplied the suggestion, Sargent Shriver was the first and very dynamic director, and Loret Ruppe (if they want a Republican) was also a very dynamic and much appreciated director. I have received many communications from other former Volunteers and the opposition to naming the building after Coverdell is very strong among all I have heard from. There are over 5,000 former volunteers in Minnesota, and about 160,000 nationwide. It would be an insult to all of us to let the Peace Corps headquarters be used in this political way. Thanks,

ST. PAUL, MN,
March 1, 2001.

Re: S. 360.RFH.

Happy Peace Corps Day!

Today is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the United States Peace Corps! Since